(c) whether it is also a fact that the National Productivity Council which had made system study on the staffing norms of the EPFO has suggested adding of more than 31,000 people at the regional, sub-regional and accounts offices; and

(d) if so, when the recommendations were made and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Presently, the EPFO is equipped with full-fledged facilitation centre, public relation officers and supporting staff to handle customer complaints particularly with regard to recoveries and pension funds. All field offices have been directed to conduct Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats every month to settle subscribers' complaints on the spot.

A study to develop workload norms was taken up by engaging the National Productivity Council (NPC) as Consultant. The NPC had submitted its report in March, 1999. However, the norms developed by it were not approved by the Executive Committee, Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. Another study was conducted by the Xavier Labour Research Institute, Jamshedpur which has since submitted a report on restructuring of EPFO.

Amendment in present child labour laws

1356. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is intending to bring forth any law/change in the present labour laws to prevent child labour;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent child labour in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring any amendments to the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There are adequate provisions available under the existing Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to prevent child labour.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps taken to increase wage share in industrial sector

1357. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the wage share in the industrial sector has halved after 1980; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to increase wage share in the industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) On the basis of information collected under Annual Survey of Industries, the percentage share of wages/salaries to total cost of production is presently available for the period 1999-2000 to 2004-2005, which is given below:—